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Rejection of Claims 1-16

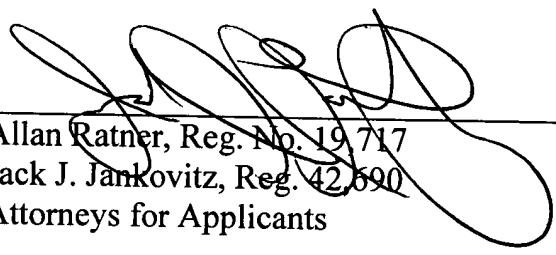
Claims 1-16 were rejected as being based upon a defective reissue declaration. Since a corrected Substitute Declaration has now been submitted, claims 1-16 are in condition for allowance.

Acknowledgement of Foreign Priority

In paper No. 4 (PTO-326), the Examiner acknowledged foreign priority by placing an "X" in (13)(b) (Same). The Examiner, however, did not indicate whether certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Applicant requests that the Examiner clarify the foreign priority acknowledgement.

Respectfully Submitted,



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AR/ebf

Enclosure: Substitute Declaration by Inventor
Copy of Offer to Surrender Original Patent

Dated: October 17, 2001

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The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on:

October 17, 2001
